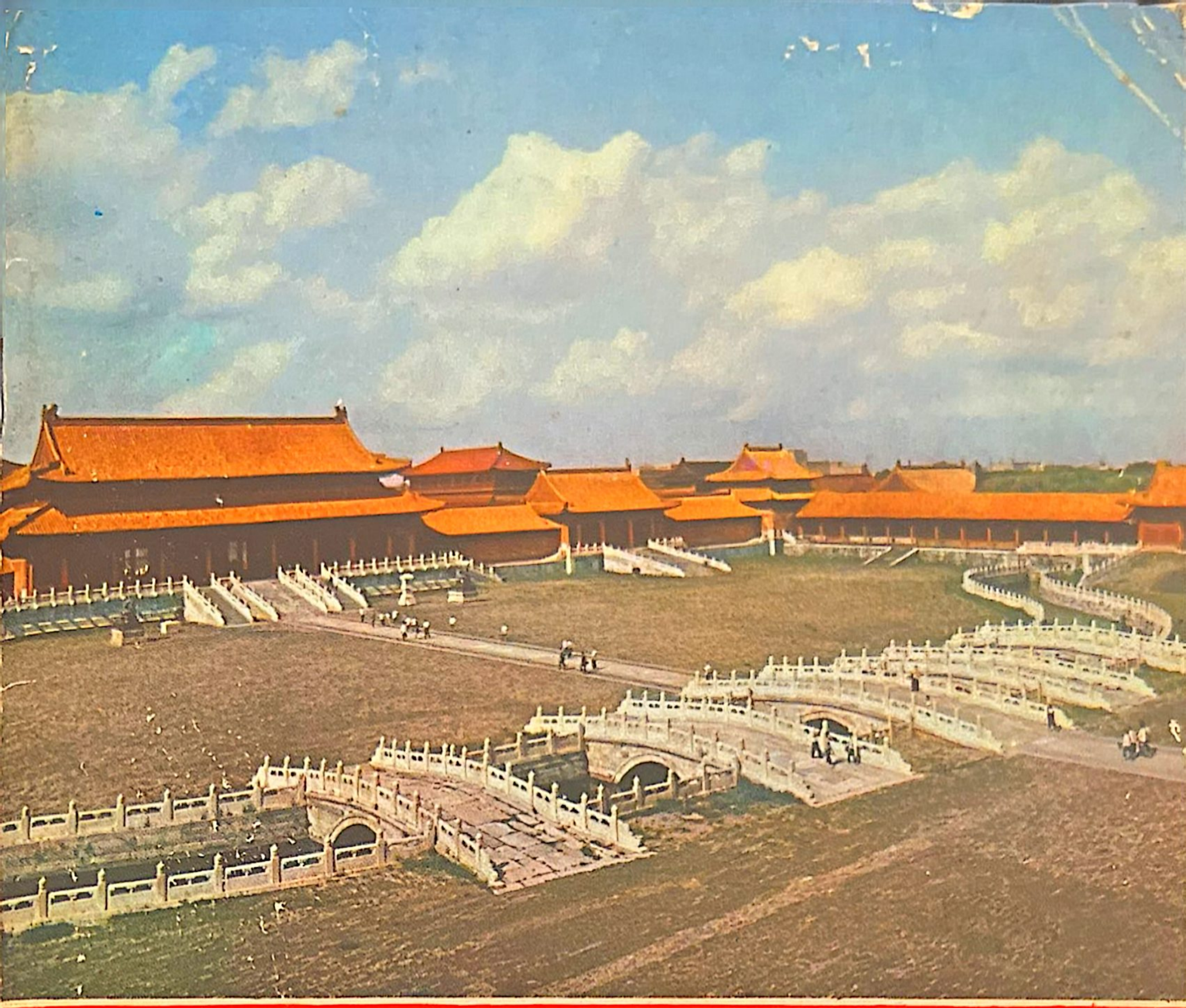


A GUIDE TO THE FORMER IMPERIAL PALACES

A Quotation from Chairman Mao Tsetung

The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history.

A Guide to the Former Imperial Palaces

The Former Imperial Palaces (formerly known as the "Forbidden City") were the royal residences of the emperors of the Ming and Ching Dynasties. They form the biggest and the best preserved group of ancient buildings now existing in China. The palaces, then the centre of feudal autocratic rule, saw the reigns of twenty-four feudal emperors who carried out ruthless economic exploitation and political oppression of the labouring people throughout the country. After the mid-19th century, in particular, when the imperialists invaded China and the Ching Dynasty submitted and surrendered to them, serving as their running dog, the palaces became a counter-revolutionary headquarters where Chinese and foreign reactionary forces colluded to suppress the Chinese people.

But neither the guns of the imperialists nor the sabres of the feudal ruling class could save them from their inevitable doom. Our great leader Chairman Mao reminds us: **"Think of the palaces of the feudal emperors over thousands of years, were they not powerful with their walls and moats? Yet they crumbled one after another the moment the masses arose."**

In face of the people's struggle, the hidden palaces protected by high walls failed to check the surging torrents of the people's revolution, but became a historical witness how the Chinese people struggled against imperialism and buried the feudal dynasties.

The Former Imperial Palaces Embody the Chinese Labouring People's Wisdom as well as Their Blood and Sweat

The Former Imperial Palaces have a history of over 550 years. Construction started in 1406 (4th year of Ming Emperor Yung Lo's reign), and was completed in the main in 1420 (18th year of Ming Emperor Yung Lo's reign). They retain to this day the original disposition though they were rebuilt and enlarged on several occasions in the Ming and Ching Dynasties.

The palace quarter covers an area of more than 720,000 square metres. There are over 9,000 rooms with a total floor-space of about 150,000 square metres. They are surrounded by a wall over ten metres high and a moat fifty-two metres wide. These palaces embody the fine traditions and unique style of ancient China's architectural art. Our great leader Chairman Mao pointed out that in the feudal society **"the peasants and the handicraft workers were the basic classes which created the wealth and culture of this society."** Every hall and every brick in the "Forbidden City" is the creation of the labouring people. Under the social conditions of those days, the construction of these magnificent buildings of such proportions speaks volumes for the great wisdom and creative ability of the labouring people in ancient China. The palaces occupy a very important place in

the history of architecture and are one of China's precious cultural legacies.

However, since the palaces were built to serve the reactionary political purposes of the feudal rulers, their design and disposition gave expression to the so-called "majesty" of the feudal monarchs and the feudal hierarchic system.

The palaces are divided into two major sections. The exterior section, or the ceremonial quarter, includes the Three Great Halls: Tai Ho Tien, Chung Ho Tien and Pao Ho Tien Halls, flanked on either side by Wen Hua Tien and Wu Ying Tien Halls. These were the main sites where the feudal emperors exercised their reactionary power. The inner section, or the living quarter, includes Chien Ching Kung Palace, Chiao Tai Tien Hall, Kun Ning Kung Palace, the Six Palaces to the East and the Six Palaces to the West. In some of these, the feudal rulers carried on their daily activities of governing. Others housed the empresses and royal concubines.

The manpower and materials which Ming and Ching Dynasty rulers poured into the building of these palaces were incalculable. It is recorded that 100,000 artisans and 1,000,000 labourers were driven to build the palaces at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty.[1]

In rebuilding the Three Great Halls in 1609 (37th year of Ming Emperor Wan Li's reign), more than 9,300,000 taels of silver were spent on felling trees alone[2] — a sum sufficient to feed over 8,000,000 impoverished peasants for a year.[3]

The construction of the Imperial Palaces brought tremendous calamities to the labouring people. In the Ming Dynasty, the timbers needed for building the palaces were brought mainly from Szechuan, Hunan, Kwangsi, Yunnan and Kweichow Provinces, while in the Ching Dynasty they were procured mainly from northeast China. Countless labouring people were compelled to

fell trees and transport them from high mountain virgin forests, at the cost of a great many of their lives. A saying arose among the labouring people: "Of 1,000 men going into the forest, only 500 come out alive."[4] This was their bitter accusation against the feudal society. Most of the stone used was quarried from Fangshan or other districts, a single slab often weighing five or even scores of tons. Nor were the workmen spared from this back-breaking labour of hewing and transporting stone in the inclement cold winter or sweltering summer heat. Many were maimed or killed. A slab of stone weighing more than 200 tons, carved with clouds and dragons, lies on the steps at the back of Pao Ho Tien Hall as an evidence of the hardships and sufferings the labouring people were subjected to by the feudal rulers.

The Imperial Palaces Were the Centre of Feudal Rule in the Ming and Ching Dynasties

Chairman Mao reminds us: **"The emperor reigned supreme in the feudal state, appointing officials in charge of the armed forces, the law courts, the treasury and state granaries in all parts of the country and relying on the landed gentry as the mainstay of the entire system of feudal rule."** The Imperial Palaces formed the centre where the feudal rulers of the Ming and Ching Dynasties held and exercised their reactionary power. Tai Ho Tien Hall, Chien Ching Kung Palace, Yang Hsin Tien Hall and the Office of the Grand Council were the main sites of their reactionary political activities.

Tai Ho Tien Hall, popularly known as Chin Luan Tien Hall, is the tallest and most spacious of the Imperial Palaces buildings.

Whenever a new emperor was installed he proclaimed in this hall a "rescript on accession to the throne" and received congratulations from his officials and vassals. Thus Tai Ho Tien Hall and its throne became symbols of the feudal imperial power.

Mammoth gilded bronze vats in front of Tai Ho Tien Hall and Pao Ho Tien Hall held water in case of fire. When the Allied Forces of the Eight Powers invaded Peking in 1900, the aggressor troops scraped the gold from the vats with their bayonets, so that these objects evidence the crimes of shameless and barbarous plunder committed by the imperialists.

Before the reign of Emperor Yung Cheng (1723-1735) of the Ching Dynasty the feudal rulers had lived and run state affairs at Chien Ching Kung Palace. It was here that they read and replied to memorials and reports and directed their henchmen to suppress and slaughter any of their subjects who staged uprisings. After 1900, the Ching Dynasty thoroughly revealed its true features as an imperialist lackey by blatantly declaring that it would "exploit all China's material strength to curry favour with its allies."[5] It was also here that it colluded and plotted on many occasions with the envoys of imperialist countries in a vain attempt to prolong its precarious existence under the shield of its masters' guns.

Beginning from the reign of Emperor Yung Cheng of the Ching Dynasty, Yang Hsin Tien Hall became a main seat of the feudal emperors' routine administrative activities; after 1840, it was also where the Ching rulers shamelessly bent the knee to foreign powers and sold out the country. Here, the emperors often received their officials and vassals and connived criminally with the Grand Councillors to suppress and deceive the labouring people. It was here also that after 1861, Yehonala (commonly known as the Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi) took charge of state

affairs "behind a screen", device she adopted so as to directly control state power. Here also, she instructed the arch executioners Tseng Kuo-fan, Li Hung-chang, Tso Tsung-tang and others to collude with imperialist gangsters in organizing a counter-revolutionary armed force frantically to suppress the Taiping Revolution. Her reactionary rule lasted for more than forty years.

Since the Opium War launched by Britain, China's territory and sovereignty had constantly been encroached upon by the imperialists. U.S. imperialism infringed on the sovereignty of our people on a large scale through such unequal treaties as the "Treaty of Wanghsia" and through the predatory "open door" policy. The Russian imperialist aggressors forced the Ching government to sign a series of unequal treaties such as the "Sino-Russian Treaty of Aihui", the "Sino-Russian Treaty of Peking" and the "Sino-Russian Ili Treaty", by which it annexed more than 1,500,000 square kilometres of Chinese territory.[6]

Macao was forcibly leased to the Portuguese colonialists in 1557 (36th year of Ming Emperor Chia Ching's reign), and in 1887 (13th year of Ching Emperor Kuang Hsu's reign), against the Chinese people's will, it was ceded entirely to the Portuguese colonialists. Particularly flagrant was the allied Anglo-French imperialist forces' invasion of Peking in 1860, their setting fire to Yuan Ming Yuan (the Old Summer Palace), and the Ching authorities' being compelled to sign a capitulationist peace treaty. In 1900 (26th year of Ching Emperor Kuang Hsu's reign), the big powers organized the Allied Forces of the Eight Powers to invade Peking again, and even quartered their troops in the Imperial Palaces. The Ching rulers hastily fled the city, but the people suffered a great catastrophe. The signing of the peace treaty meant the loss of more of their rights and the payment of enormous indemnities. The spoils were also divided among medium-sized and small capitalist countries of Europe who claimed equal shares in all spoils grabbed from China. Thus what was "cultivated" in the Yang Hsin Tien Hall (Hall of Mental Cultivation) was national capitulation and treachery, and nothing else.

The Office of the Grand Council was situated to the west of Chien Ching Men Gate. After the reign of Emperor Yung Cheng, the emperors' most trusted henchmen, the Grand Councillors, waited here for their masters' orders, and drafted and issued various reactionary decrees in compliance with their wishes. This so-called "confidential" area was where for 130 years the rulers plotted suppression and exploitation of the people.

The Imperial Palaces Were the Landlords' Largest Manor

Chairman Mao has pointed out that in the feudal society, **"The feudal ruling class composed of landlords, the nobility and the emperor owned most of the land, while the peasants had very little or none at all. The peasants tilled the land of the landlords, the nobility and the royal family with their own farm implements and had to turn over to them for their private enjoyment 40, 50, 60, 70, or even 80 per cent or more of the crop."** This was precisely how class relations stood during the Ming and Ching Dynasties. Not only were the feudal emperors the chief representatives of the landlord class; they themselves were the biggest landlords in the country. The Imperial Palaces were the biggest citadel of feudalism, and also the largest manor in China. The feudal rulers ruthlessly exploited the labouring people by various means such as collecting taxes and levies, and the exploita-

tion was daily intensified. Towards the end of the Ching Dynasty, the annual amount of exploitation had exceeded 280,000,000 taels of silver.[7] In addition, the royal family directly collected rent on the vast tracts of the Royal Estate. In the Ching Dynasty, such land amounted to over 4,000,000 *mu*.[8] The jewelry and other valuables they plundered through feudal privileges were of incalculable amount. The feudal rulers spent a part of their annualy exploited income on nurturing their flunkeys, running dogs and troops, while the rest went for their luxurious and decadent life.

According to the records of the Department of the Imperial Household of the Ching Dynasty, the average expenditure for court life in the Imperial Palaces was over 10,000 taels of silver per day.[9] The cost of one meal for the emperor could feed nearly 5,000 impoverished peasants for a day.[10] The feudal rulers squandered the people's money lavishly, while the labouring people lived in the pinch of poverty and starvation. In the early years of the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu in the Ching Dynasty, as many as 1,300,000 impoverished peasants in Shansi, Shensi and Honan Provinces died of hunger.[11] The sharp contrast fully exposed the darkness of the feudal society.

Kun Ning Kung Palace was used for Ching Dynasty imperial weddings, and a court marriage ceremony was catastrophic to the labouring people. The wedding of Tsai Tien (Emperor Kuang Hsu) cost over 5,500,000 taels of silver,[12] the price of 300,000 kilogrammes of rice at that time, which was enough to satisfy the average daily consumption of 3,600,000 impoverished peasants for a year.

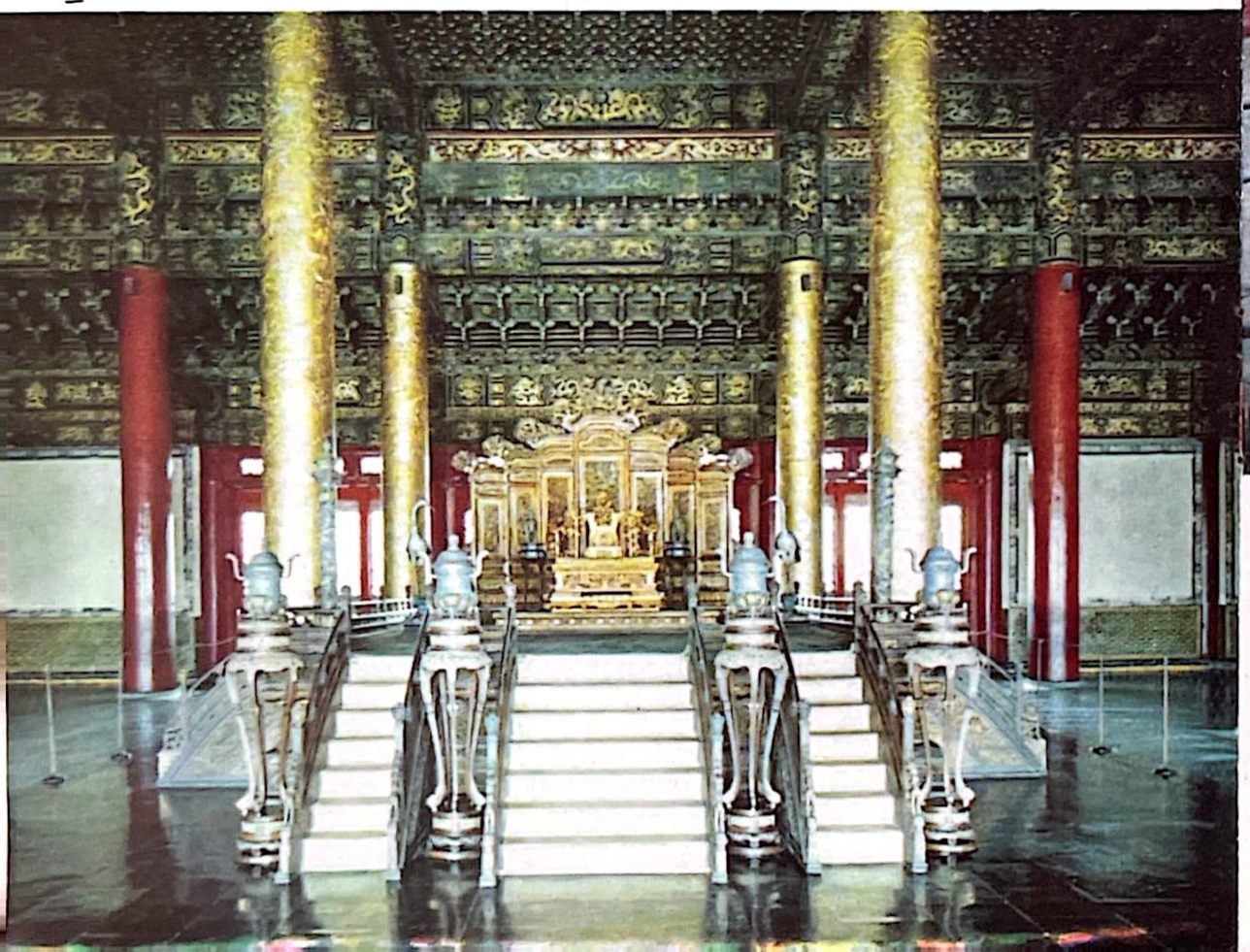
The Six Palaces to the East and the Six Palaces to the West were the apartments of the empresses and imperial concubines. These palaces were most extravagantly appointed. Chu Hsiu

▲ Wu Men (Meridian Gate)

▲ A view of Tai Ho Tien (Hall of Supreme Harmony)

◀ Bronze Lion at Tai Ho Men
(Gate of Supreme Harmony)

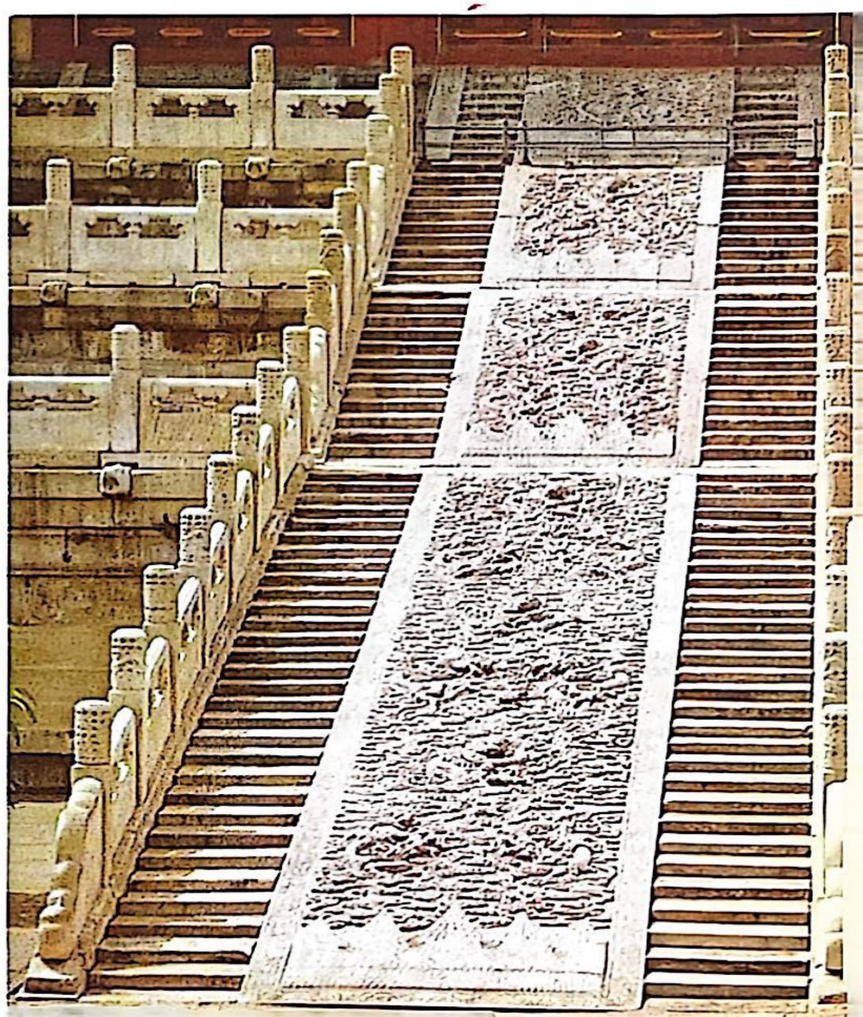
▲ Gilt bronze caldrons at Tai Ho
Tien (Hall of Supreme Harmony)



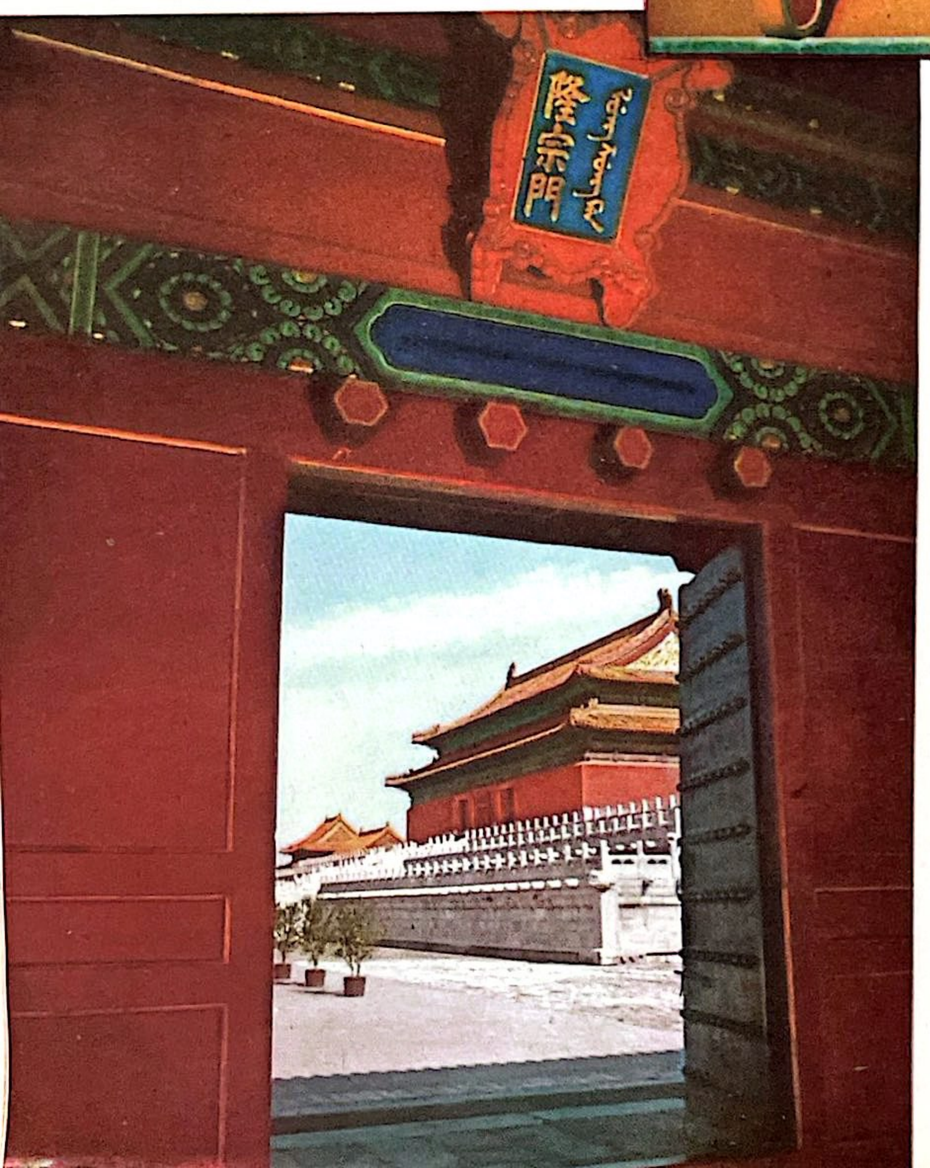
◀ The interior of Tai Ho Tien
(Hall of Supreme Harmony)

▲ A view of Chung Ho Tien (Hall of Middle Harmony) and Pao Ho Tien (Hall of Preserving Harmony)

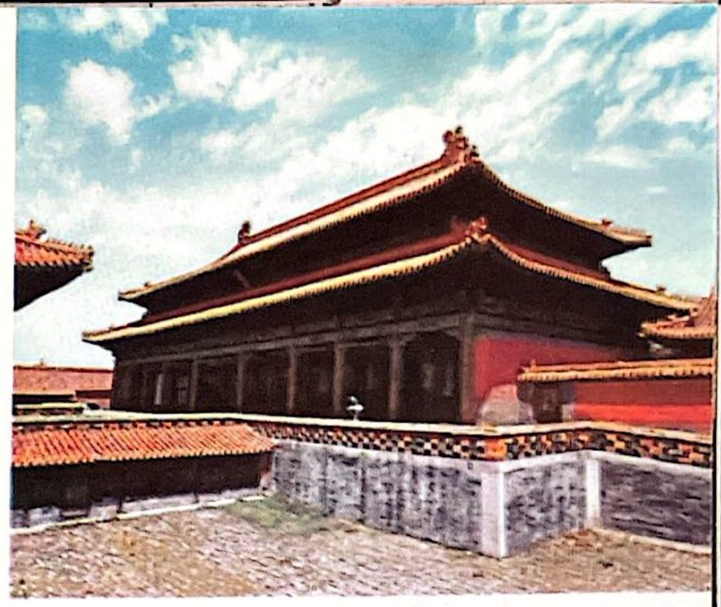
▼ Stepping stone carved with clouds and dragons at the back of Pao Ho Tien (Hall of Preserving Harmony)



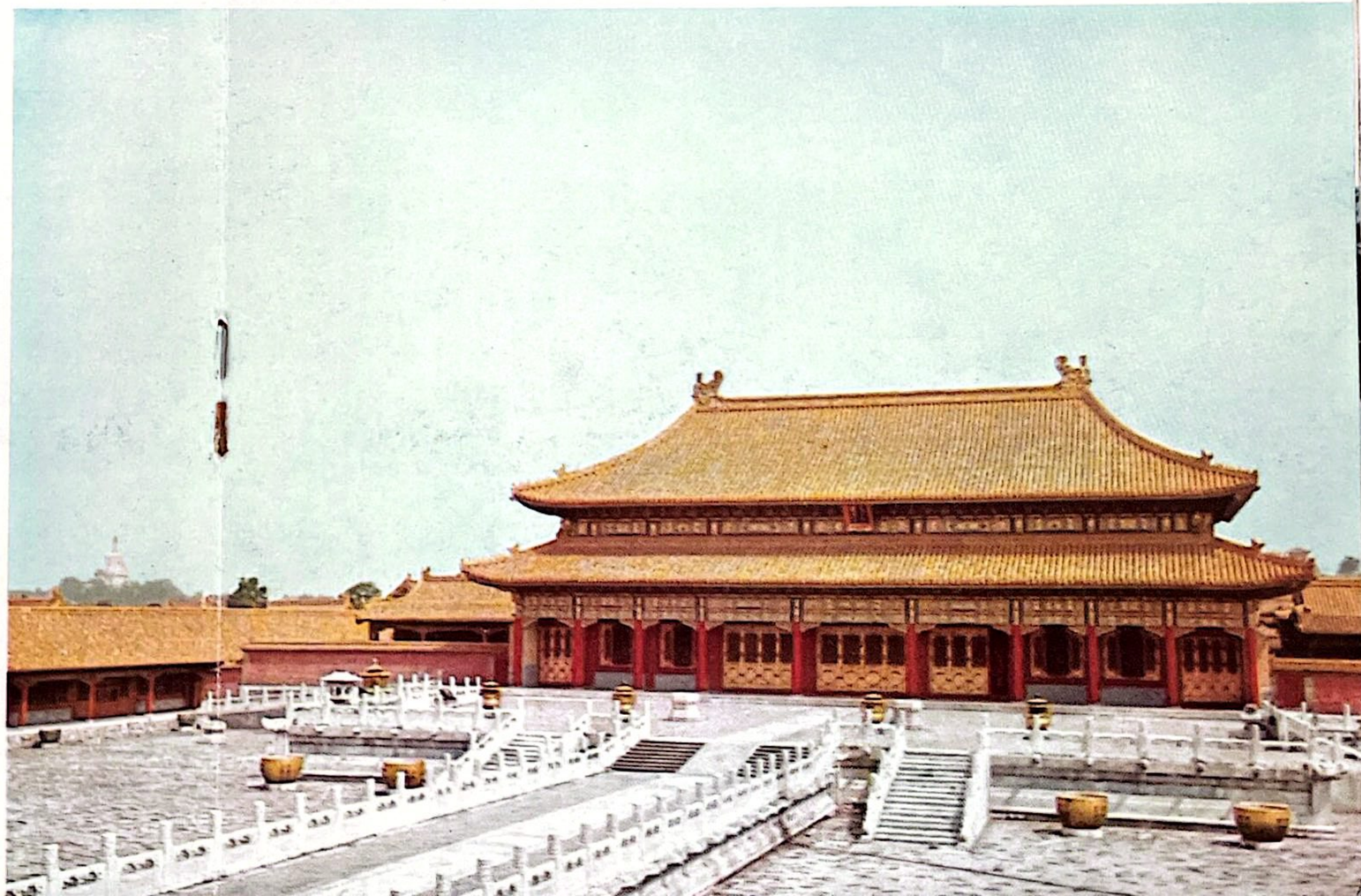
Lung Tsung Men (Gate of Great Favor) and an arrow-head in its tablet



Kun Ning Kung ▶
(Palace of Earthly Tranquility)



▼ Chien Ching Kung (Palace of Heavenly Purity)



Upper: A view of Chang Chun Kung (Palace of Eternal Spring)

Below: The interior of Chu Hsiu Kung (Palace of Gathering Excellence)

▼ The interior of Yang Hsin Tien
(Hall of Mental Cultivition)

▲ Tien Yi Men (First Gate of Heaven)
at Imperial Garden

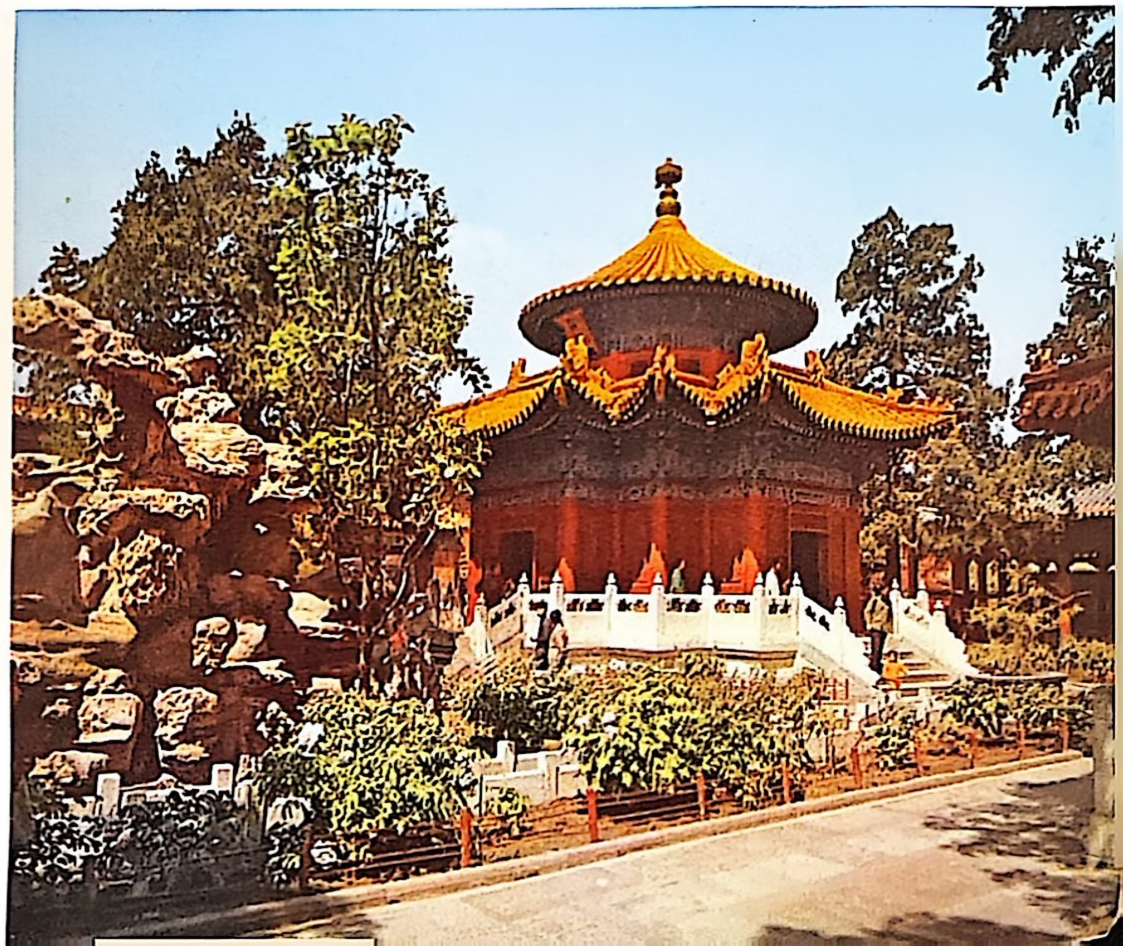
▲ Great Stage at Shu Fang Chai
(Ladge of Fresh Fragrance)

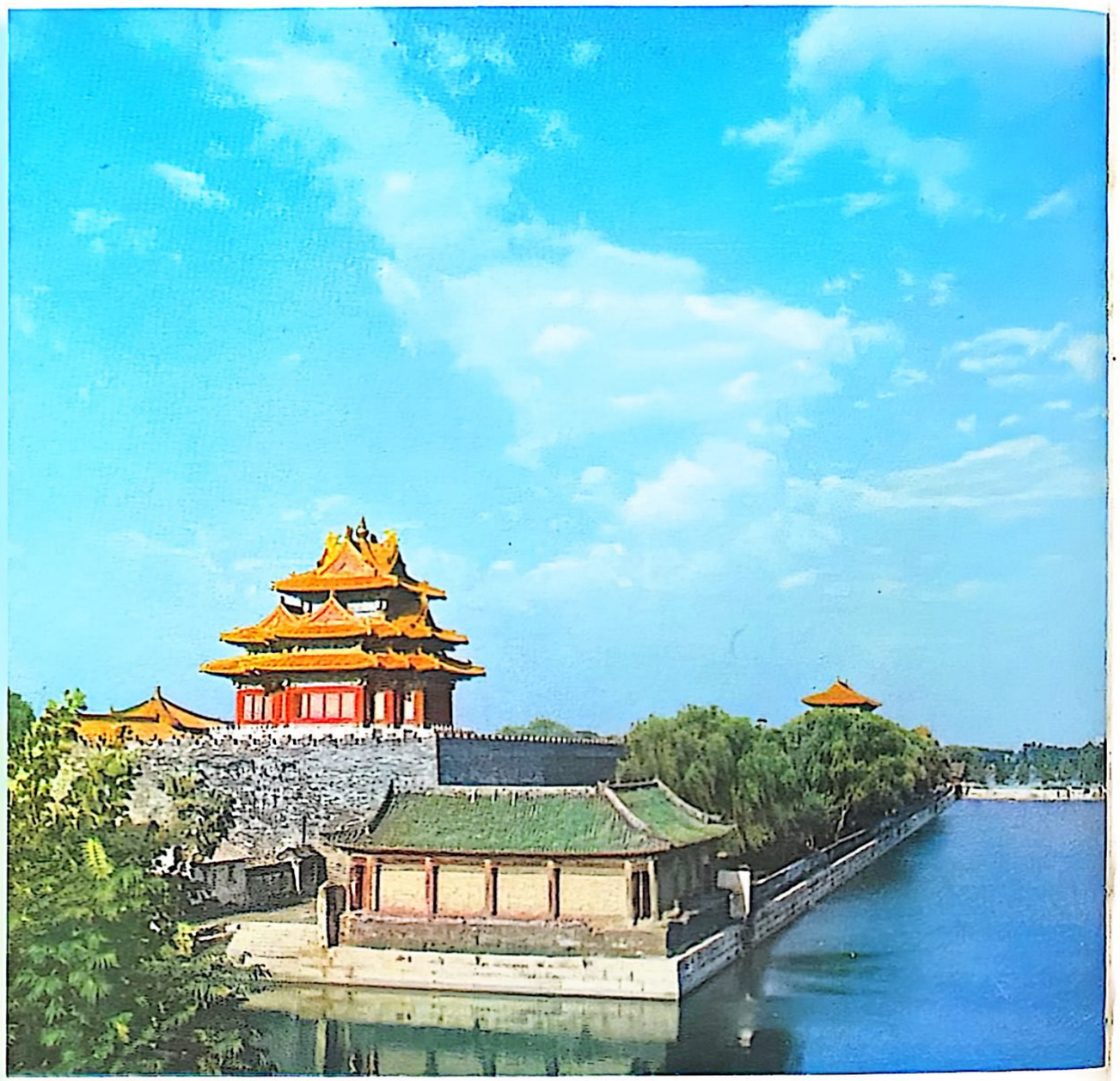
Ning Shou Men (Gate of Peaceful Old-Age) ▶

Carved stone balustrade of Chin An Tien (Hall of Royal Peace) ▶

▲ Wan Chun Ting (Innumerable Springs Pavilion) at Imperial Garden

▼ Chien Chiu Ting (Thousand Autumns Pavilion) at Imperial Garden





▲ North-eastern turret of the Forbidden City

Kung Palace and Lo Shou Tang Hall both served as living quarters for Yehonala (Tzu Hsi).

In 1894 (20th year of Ching Emperor Kuang Hsu's reign), when Japanese imperialism wantonly invaded China, Yehonala, ignoring the imminent peril to the state and nation in her zeal to celebrate her 60th birthday, spent over 10,000,000 taels of silver on decorating the palaces,[13] and on feasting, gifts, and bedecking the entire length of the route between the Imperial Palaces and Yi Ho Yuan (the Summer Palace). Earlier, she had embezzled the fund collected for building a navy to refurbish the Summer Palace. The utter corruption and counter-revolutionary features of the feudal rulers were fully revealed. It was precisely such ruthless exploitation and oppression by the reactionary feudal ruling class that caused the extreme poverty and backwardness of the broad masses of the peasants, and which retarded the development of the economy and social life of China for several centuries.

The Imperial Palaces Bear Historical Witness How the People Buried the Feudal Dynasties

Our great leader Chairman Mao points out: **"The ruthless economic exploitation and political oppression of the peasants by the landlord class forced them into numerous uprisings against its rule."**

The reactionary and brutal feudal rulers tried to make a show of their "imperial authority" and "majesty" by building awesome palaces, so as to deceive and intimidate the people. At the same time they attempted in vain to use the fortified "Forbidden City" to check popular struggle, so as to ride roughshod over the people indefinitely.

The Chinese people, however, with their revolutionary tradition, never ceased struggling against the feudal ruling class' exploitation and oppression. In 1409 (7th year of Ming Emperor Yung Lo's reign), a resistance struggle broke out in Hunan Province involving lumbermen building the Imperial Palaces. From the completion of the palaces up to the eve of the Opium War, there were over 100 recorded cases of fairly large-scale peasant resistance struggles.[14] Though all ended in failure for lack of new class forces and the leadership of an advanced political party in those days, these revolutionary peasant wars played the role of dealin blows to the contemporary feudal rule and to some degree furthered the growth of the productive forces in society.

Towards the end of the Ming Dynasty, Li Tzu-cheng's insurgent army, upholding the banner of "no levy" and "equal distribution of land", marched triumphantly into Peking in 1644 (17th year of Ming Emperor Chuang Chen's reign) amidst cheers of "support King Chuang (or the Dare-All King, nickname of Li Tzu-cheng) and pay no grain taxes". They stormed the Imperial Palaces and overthrew the Ming Dynasty. Chu Yu-chien (Chung Chen), the last emperor of the Ming Dynasty, found the situation utterly hopeless and hanged himself on Coal Hill (present-day Ching Shan, overlooking the "Forbidden City" to the north).

In 1813 (18th year of Ching Emperor Chia Ching's reign), the revolutionary peasants of the Tien Li Chiao, a secret religious society in Honan, Shantung and Peking staged an armed uprising against the Ching Dynasty. A unit of the peasant forces revolted in Peking's suburbs and fought its way into the Imperial Palaces, engaging the Ching army in a fierce battle near Lung Tsung Men Gate. An arrow-head remains today in the tablet above the gate as a reminder of the battle against the class enemy and glorious record of the Chinese people's heroic struggle.

After the Opium War in 1840, when the imperialists invaded China, the feudal Ching Dynasty rulers brazenly colluded with the invaders, with the result that China was gradually reduced to semi-colonial, semi-feudal status. The heroic Chinese people rose in fiery struggles against imperialism and feudalism, and in 1853 the revolutionary army of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom captured Nanking. A contingent of the army was sent to march on Peking and reached the vicinity of Tientsin. The feudal ruling class in Peking was panic-stricken; Emperor Yi Chu (Hsien Feng) prepared to flee to Jehol.

In 1900, the Yi Ho Tuan revolutionary peasants controlled the whole of Peking for a time. This dealt a heavy blow to the imperialist aggressors and shook the feudal regime of the Ching Dynasty, writing a brilliant page in the history of revolutionary struggles in modern China.

During the 1911 Revolution, the Chinese people overthrew the reactionary Ching Dynasty, lackey of imperialism, by numerous valiant struggles. The Ching rulers could not help making the decision to sign an "imperial proclamation" of abdication in Yang Hsin Tien Hall. Yet, as Chairman Mao pointed out: **"While it** [the Revolution of 1911] **sent the emperor packing, it left China under imperialist and feudal oppression, so that the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolutionary task remained unaccomplished."**

Not long after the fall of the Ching Dynasty, the traitor Yuan Shih-kai usurped the power in 1915 and proclaimed himself emperor, even making preparations for holding a "great ceremony of enthronement" in Tai Ho Tien Hall. In 1917, Pu Yi, the last of the Ching emperors, under the direction of such feudal remnants as Chang Hsun, staged a "restoration" farce of a few days' duration in Yang Hsin Tien Hall. The reactionary scribbler Hu Shih,

energetic advertiser of bourgeois democracy, was among those who called at the Imperial Palaces for audience with the dethroned emperor and addressed him "Your Majesty". But these buffoons who attempted to turn back the wheel of history were in the end swept into the historical garbage heap.

After the 1911 Revolution the overthrown Pu Yi, shielded by the reactionaries, continued hiding in the inner quarter of the Imperial Palaces for 13 years and did a great deal of evil. At his rapacious direction a great number of cultural relics were clandestinely removed from the palaces. After the "September 18th Incident" in 1931, the Chiang Kai-shek reactionaries, adopting a non-resistance policy in face of Japanese imperialism's flagrant invasion of Chinese territory and massacre of the Chinese people, looted 2,972 cases of valuable cultural relics from the Imperial Palaces. The buildings were neglected and left to decay, the grounds were overgrown with weeds and piled high with rubbish — a scene of filth and desolation.

At China's liberation in 1949, the Imperial Palaces, precious legacy embodying the wisdom and strength of China's labouring people through the ages, finally returned into their hands. The Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government at once started large-scale repair of these ancient buildings. About 250,000 cubic metres of rubbish was cleared away. This would be equivalent in earth to the amount of work involved in building an embankment 125 kilometres long, 2 metres wide and 1 metre high. In 1961, the State Council declared the Former Imperial Palaces one of the nation's important historical monuments under the protection of the government. Large numbers of cultural relics have been collected and arranged for exhibition here.

During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement of Criticism of Lin Piao and Confucius, the ranks of revolutionary people, enlightened by Mao Tsetung Thought and guided by Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, have criticized and repudiated the counter-revolutionary revisionist line pushed by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao. The Former Imperial Palaces have served as a classroom for conducting class education. A visit to the Former Imperial Palaces reminds us of past sufferings so that we shall appreciate the happy life today. This contrast of the past with the present deepens still more the Chinese peoples' great love for Chairman Mao and for the socialist system, and intensifies their hatred for the handful of class enemies who dream of staging a counter-revolutionary comeback. The Chinese people know they must not for a single moment forget the class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat, but must closely follow the great leader Chairman Mao and bravely advance along the line of unity and victory laid down by the Chinese Communist Party. We are determined to carry the great cause of continuing the revolution under proletarian dictatorship through to the end!

Notes

1. "100,000 artisans and 1,000,000 labourers were driven to build the palaces at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty."

Quoted from "Biography of Tsou Chi", *The History of the Ming Dynasty,* Chapter 164.

2. "In rebuilding the Three Great Halls in 1609, more than 9,300,000 taels of silver were spent on felling trees alone."

Quoted from Part 6 of the "Treatise on Food and Money", *The History of the Ming Dynasty,* Chapter 82.

3. "A sum sufficient to feed over 8,000,000 impoverished peasants for a year."

The price of rice being 0.7 taels of silver per picul during the reign of Emperor Wan Li of the Ming Dynasty, 9,300,000 taels of silver could buy 13,200,000 piculs of rice. One picul equals 120 catties, so the total amount exceeded 1,500,000,000 catties. Taking the annual rice consumption per peasant as 180 catties, the above quantity of rice was sufficient for over 8,400,000 impoverished peasants for a year.

4. "Of 1,000 men going into the forest, only 500 come out alive."

Quoted from "Biography of Lu Kun", *The History of the Ming Dynasty,* Chapter 226.

5. "Exploit all China's material strength to curry favour with its allies."

Quoted from an imperial edict issued on the 26th day of the 12th month of the 26th year of the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu, taken from "Archives of Imperial Edicts" of the Grand Council of the Emperor of the Ching Dynasty.

6. "The Russian imperialist aggressors forced the Ching government to sign a series of unequal treaties such as the 'Sino-Russian Treaty of Aihui', the 'Sino-Russian Treaty of Peking' and the 'Sino-Russian Ili Treaty', by which it annexed more than 1,500,000 square kilometres of Chinese territory."

Quoted from "Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China" carried in *People's Daily,* May 25, 1969.

7. "The feudal rulers ruthlessly exploited the labouring people by various means such as collecting taxes and levies, and the exploitation was daily intensified. Towards the end of the Ching Dynasty, the annual amount of exploitation had exceeded 280,000,000 taels of silver."

Ouoted from Part 6 of the National Expenditure Section, Chapter 66 of "Supplementary Compilation of Documents of the Ching Dynasty".

8. "In addition, the royal family directly collected rent on the vast tracts of the Royal Estate. In the Ching Dynasty, such land amounted to over 4,000,000 *mu.*"

Quoted from Chapter 16 of "Documents on Rules, Regulations and Systems" in the reign of Emperor Chia Ching and the archives of the Rent Collection Office of the Department of the Imperial Household.

9. "According to the records of the Department of the Imperial Household of the Ching Dynasty, the average expenditure for court life in the Imperial Palaces was over 10,000 taels of silver per day."

As recorded in the archives of the Statistics Office of the Department of the Imperial Household in the 34th year of the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu, the annual expenditure for the Imperial Household amounted to more than 3,450,000 taels of silver plus 220,000 piculs of rice, etc. per day. Hence, over 10,000 taels of silver a day.

10. "The cost of one meal for the emperor could feed nearly 5,000 impoverished peasants for a day."

As recorded in the archives of the Imperial Kitchen of the Department of the Imperial Household of the Ching Dynasty, the emperors' meals (at the time, the emperor had two regular meals and two refreshments every day) usually cost 60 taels of silver a day (not including the numerous aditional expenditures). Each regular meal cost at least 20 taels of silver. This was equivalent to the cost of 20 piculs or 2,400 catties of rice (Towards the end of the Ching Dynasty the official purchasing price of rice was around one tael of silver per picul, or 120 catties). Taking the daily consumption of rice per impoverished peasant as half a catty, this was enough to feed 5,000 impoverished peasants for a day.

11. "In the early years of the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu in the Ching Dynasty, as many as 1,300,000 impoverished peasants in Shansi, Shensi and Honan Provinces died of hunger."

Quoted from issue No. 81 of the periodical *Yi Wen Lu,* published on the 24th of the 11th month of the 6th year of the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu.

12. "The wedding of Tsai Tien (Emperor Kuang Hsu) cost over 5,500,000 taels of silver."

Quoted from Part 1 of the National Expenditure Section, Chapter 63 of the "Supplementary Compilation of Documents of the Ching Dynasty".

13. ". . . spent over 10,000,000 taels of silver on decorating the palaces. . ."

Quoted from "Archives of Ceremonious Events" of the Department of the Imperial Household.

14. "From the completion of the palaces up to the eve of the Opium War, there were over 100 recorded cases of fairly large-scale peasant resistance struggles."

Figure derived from "Chronological Table of Chinese and Foreign History" (1958 edition).

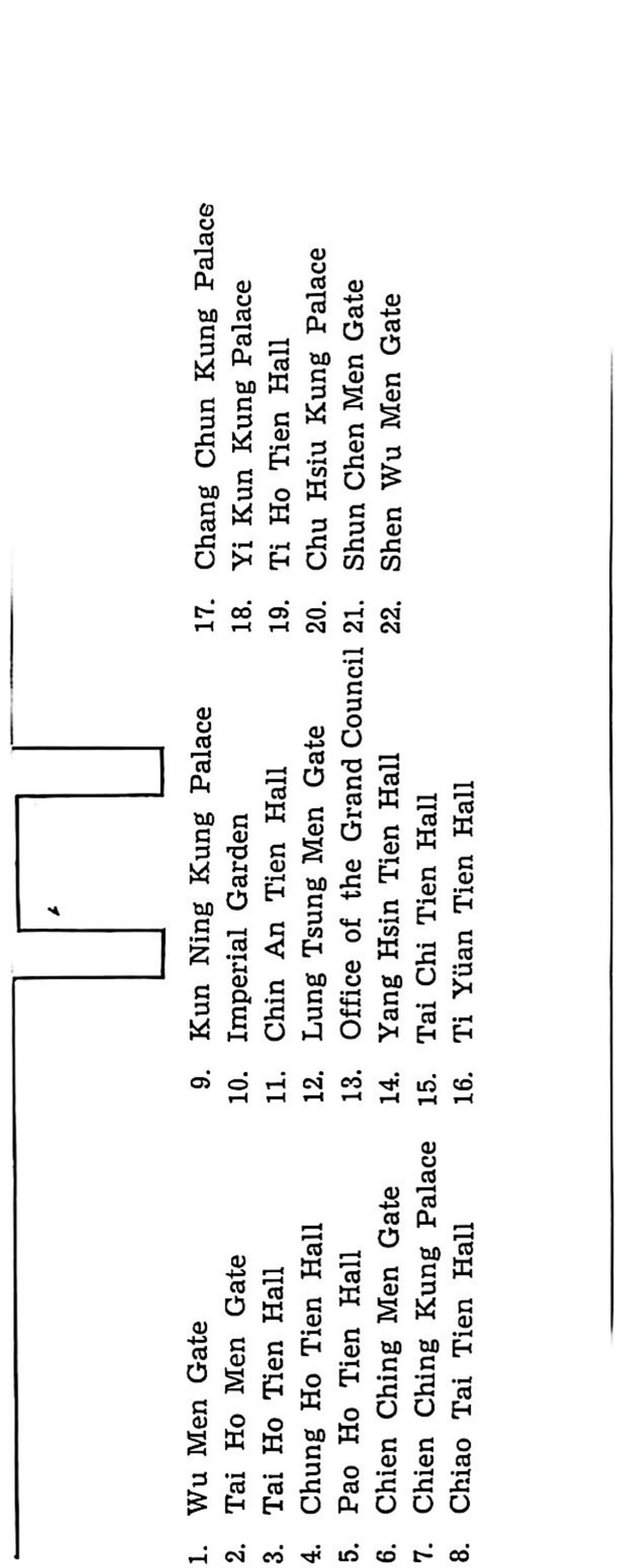
List of Emperors of Ming and Ching Dynasties

Ming (1368 — 1644 A.D.)

Hung Wu	1368-1398
Chien Wen	1399-1402
Yung Lo	1403-1424
Hung Hsi	1425
Hsuan Teh	1426-1435
Cheng Tung	1436-1449
Ching Tai	1450-1456
Tien Shun	1457-1464
Cheng Hua	1465-1487
Hung Chih	1488-1505
Cheng Teh	1506-1521
Chia Ching	1522-1566
Lung Ching	1567-1572
Wan Li	1573-1620
Tai Chang	1620
Tien Chi	1621-1627
Chung Chen	1628-1644

Ching (1644 — 1911 A.D.)

Shun Chih	1644-1661
Kang Hsi	1662-1722
Yung Cheng	1723-1735
Chien Lung	1736-1795
Chia Ching	1796-1820
Tao Kuang	1821-1850
Hsien Feng	1851-1861
Tung Chih	1862-1874
Kuang Hsu	1875-1908
Hsuan Tung	1909-1911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2. Tai Ho Men Gate
3. Tai Ho Tien Hall
4. Chung Ho Tien Hall
5. Pao Ho Tien Hall
6. Chien Ching Men Gate
7. Chien Ching Kung Palace
8. Chiao Tai Tien Hall
9. Kun Ning Kung Palace
10. Imperial Garden
11. Chin An Tien Hall
12. Lung Tsung Men Gate
13. Office of the Grand Council
14. Yang Hsin Tien Hall
15. Tai Chi Tien Hall
16. Ti Yüan Tien Hall
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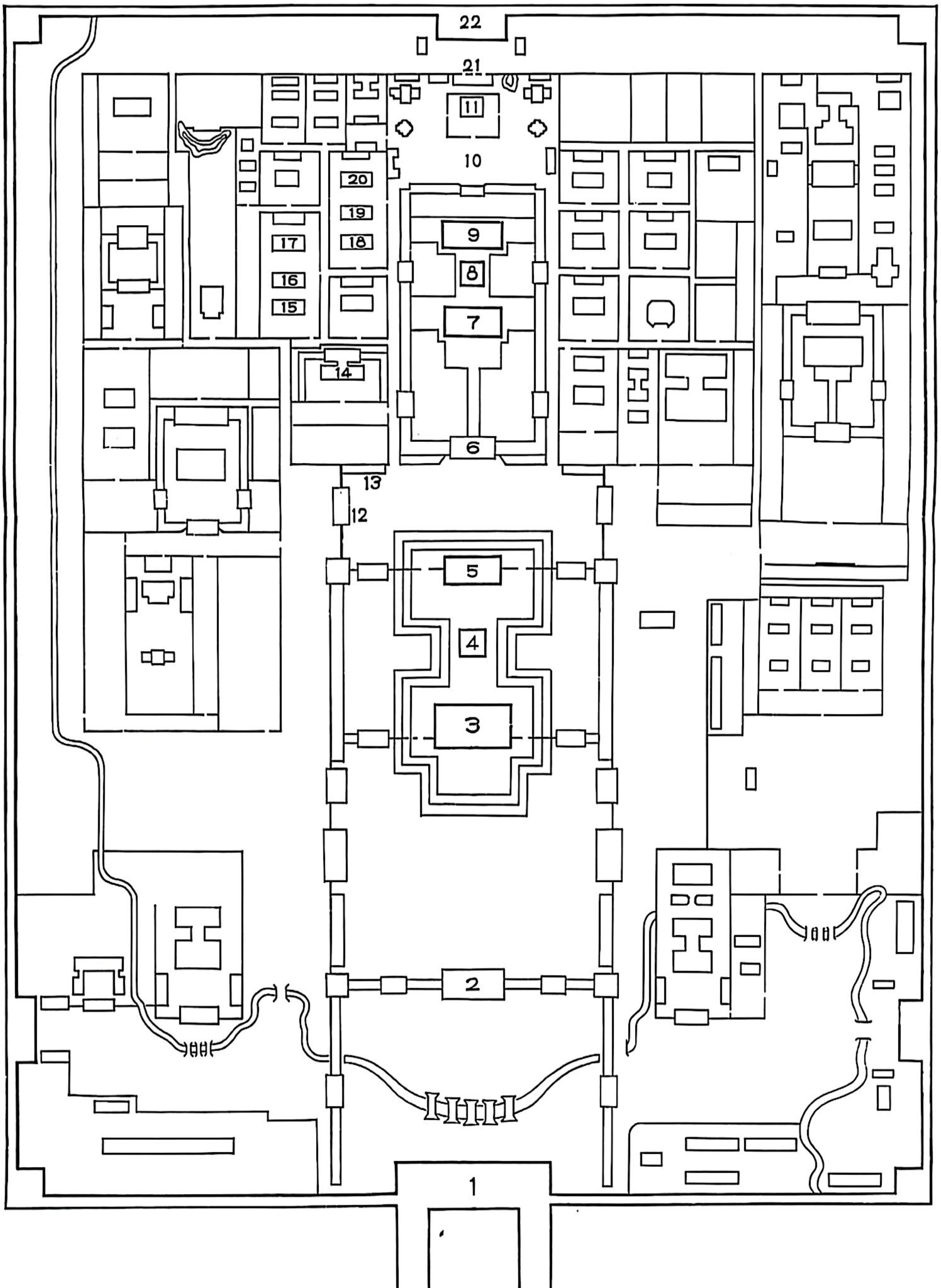
21. Shun Chen Men Gate
22. Shen Wu Men Gate

PALACE MUSEUM

Visitors' Guide Map



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Front cover:
Tai Ho Men (Gate of Supreme Harmony) with Chin Shui Chiao (Marble Bridges over the Golden Stream)
Inside cover:
A panorama view of the Imperial Palaces

故宮簡介

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